

representing an annotation as an object having a plurality of properties wherein one of the plurality of properties is a document identifier property; and
42 associating the annotation with a content source using the document identifier property wherein the document identifier property identifies the content source with which the annotation is associated, wherein the annotation is retrievable from an annotation server in a multiple tier computing system.

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7. (Amended) A scalable method of presenting an annotation associated with a content source, the method comprising:
sending a document identifier for a content source to a tier I server, said tier I server being part of a multiple tier computing system that also includes a tier II server; and
receiving a first response from the tier I server, said first response comprising an indication of whether one or more annotations are associated with the document identifier and a reference to said tier II server, said tier II server maintaining additional information for each one of the annotations associated with the document identifier.

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10. (Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein said multiple tier computing system also includes a tier III server and further comprising:
sending a request to the tier II server for additional information for one of the annotations associated with the content source; and
receiving a second response from the tier II server, said second response comprising one or more properties for the annotation and a reference to said tier III server for the annotation.

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16. (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising computer executable steps for executing a scalable method for associating an annotation with a content source, the method comprising: